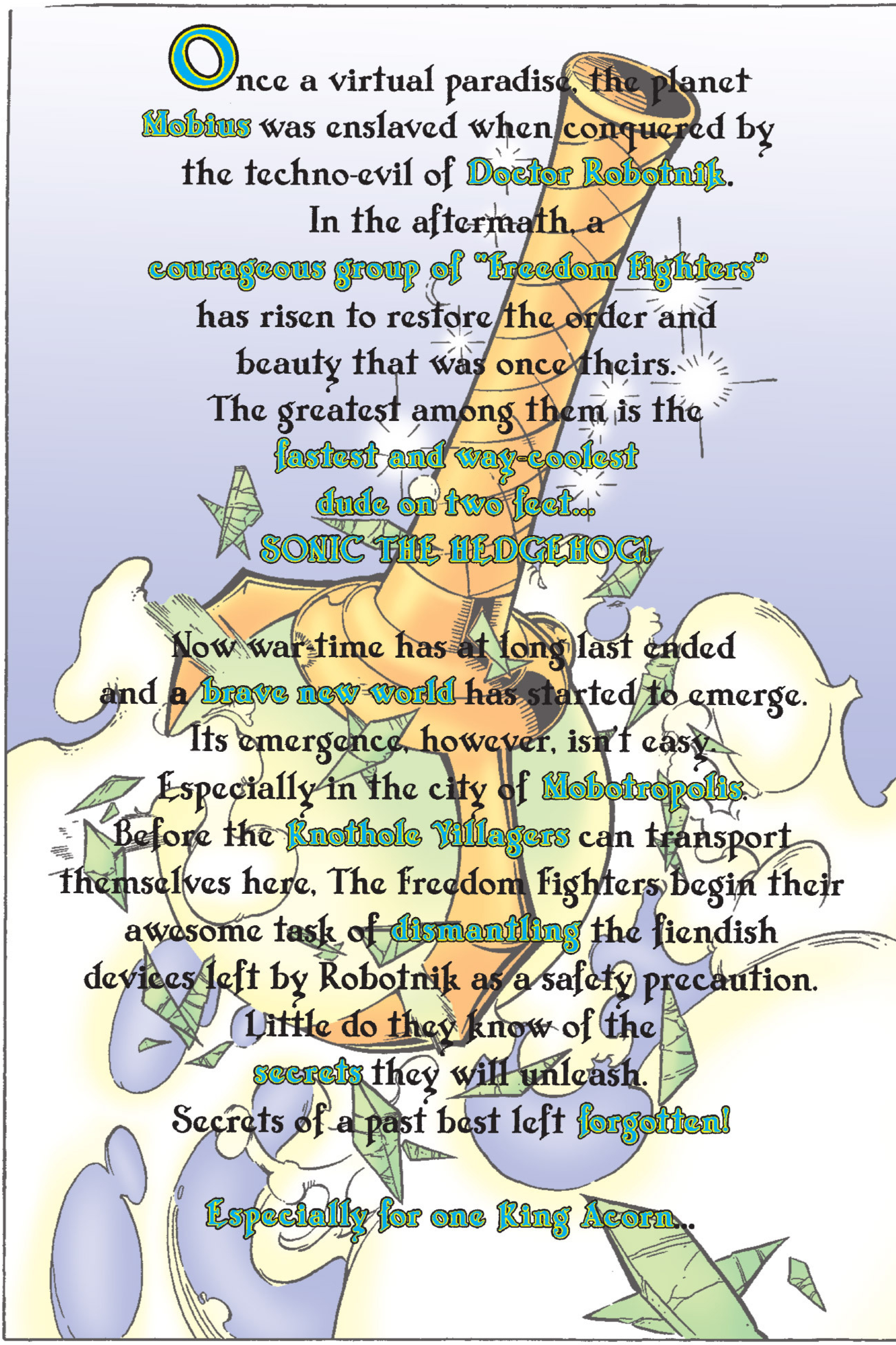
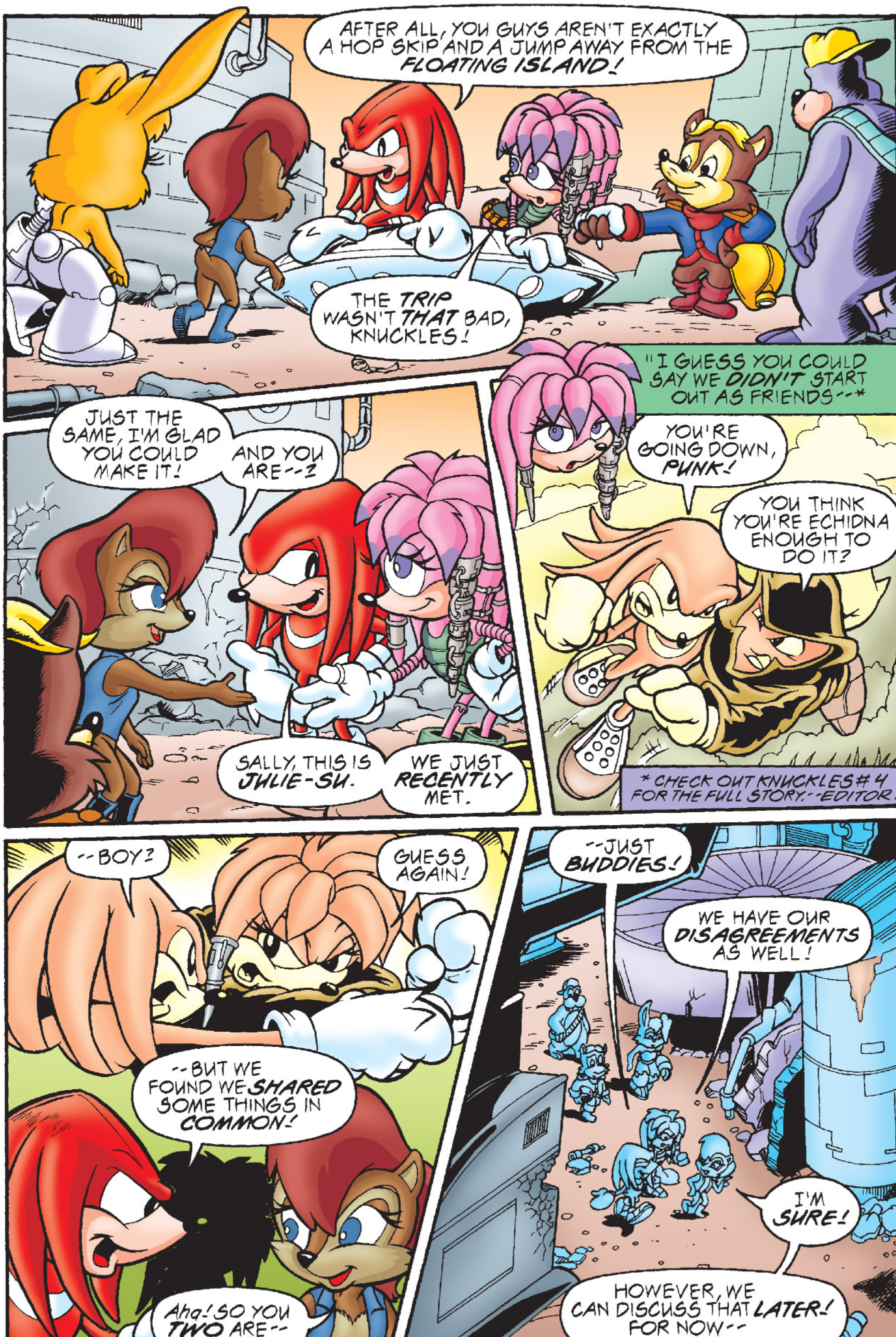
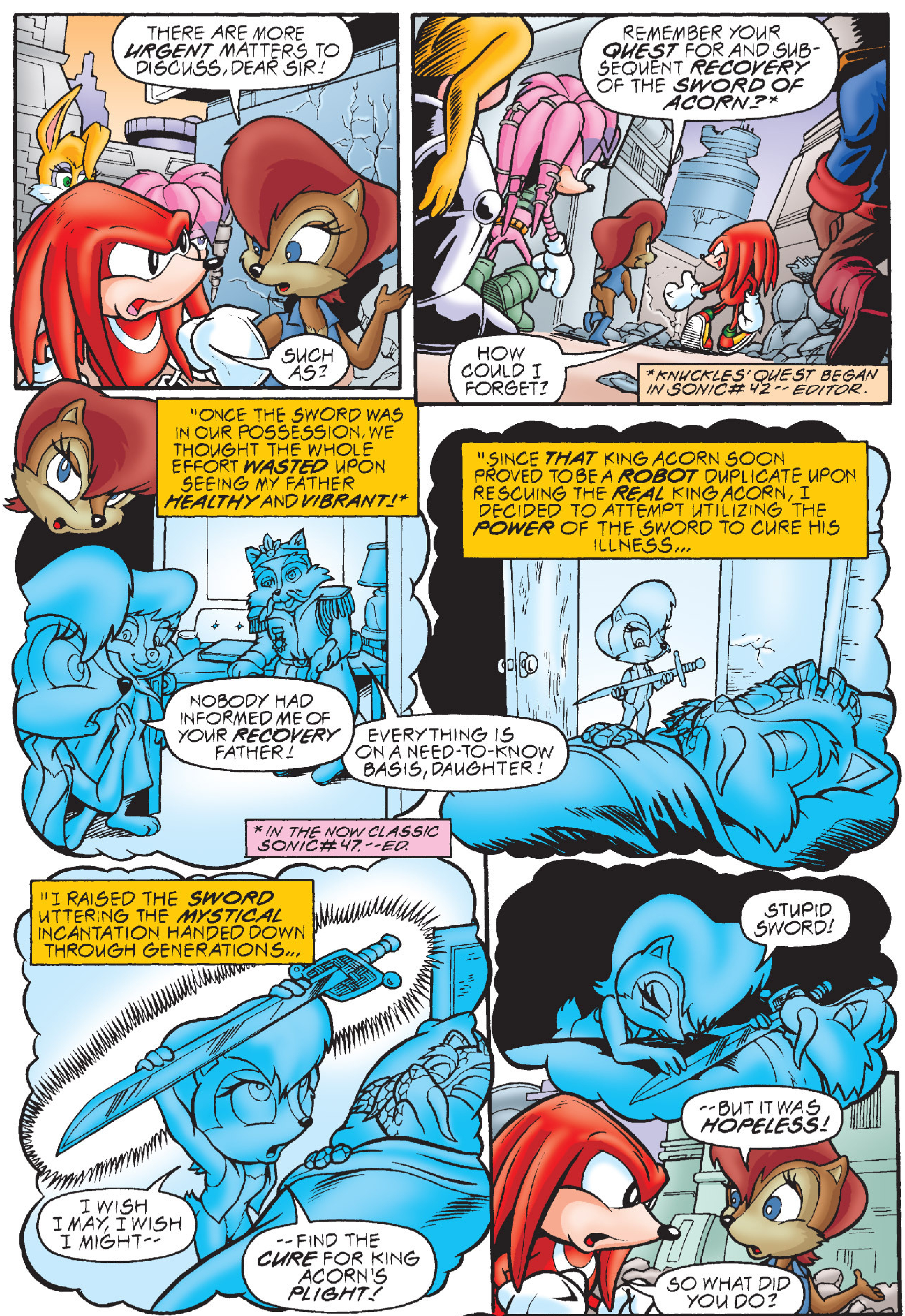


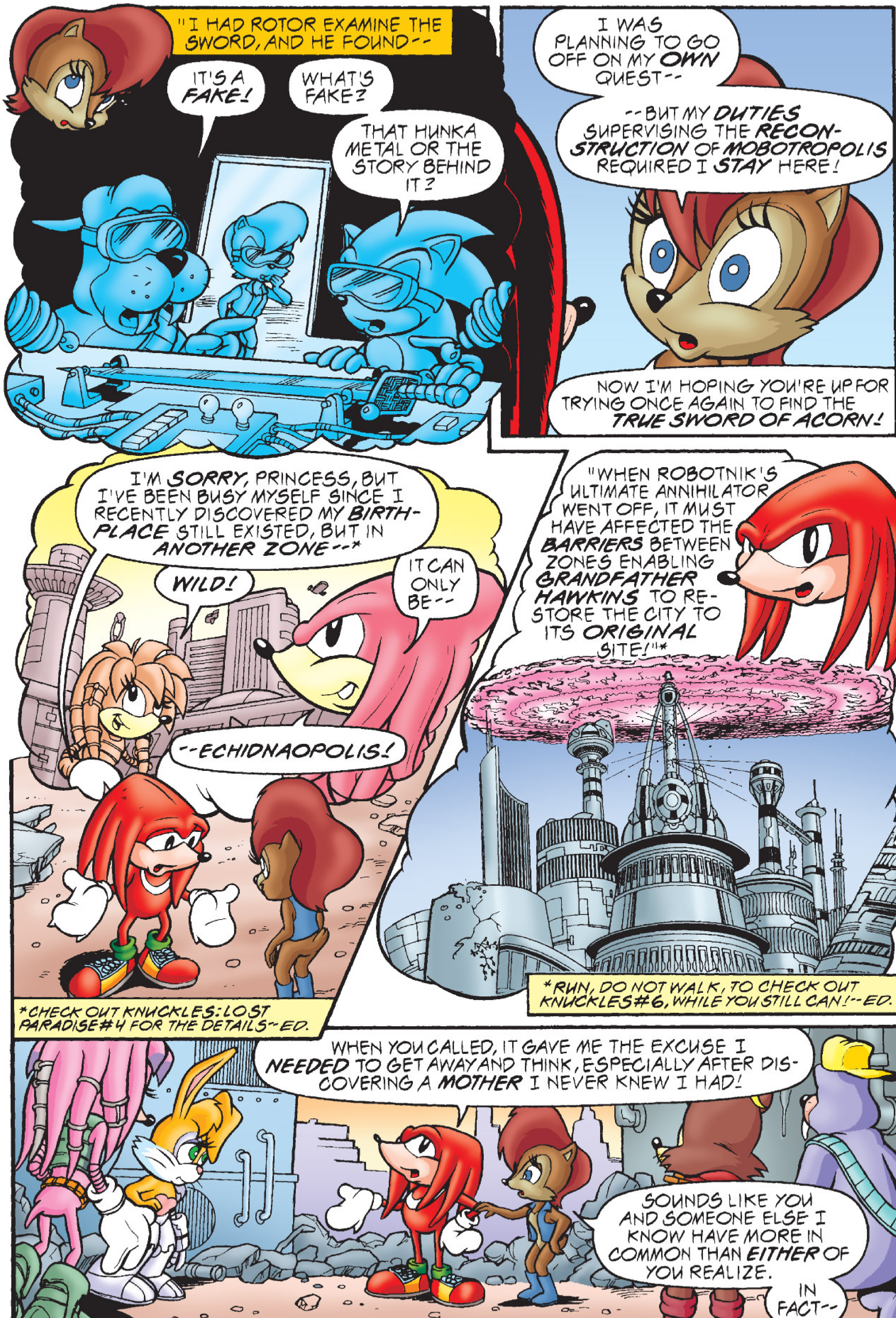
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.53
DEC.
US $1.75
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
TM
GUESS WHO'S COMING TO
DINNER?!?
SPAZ
HARIO

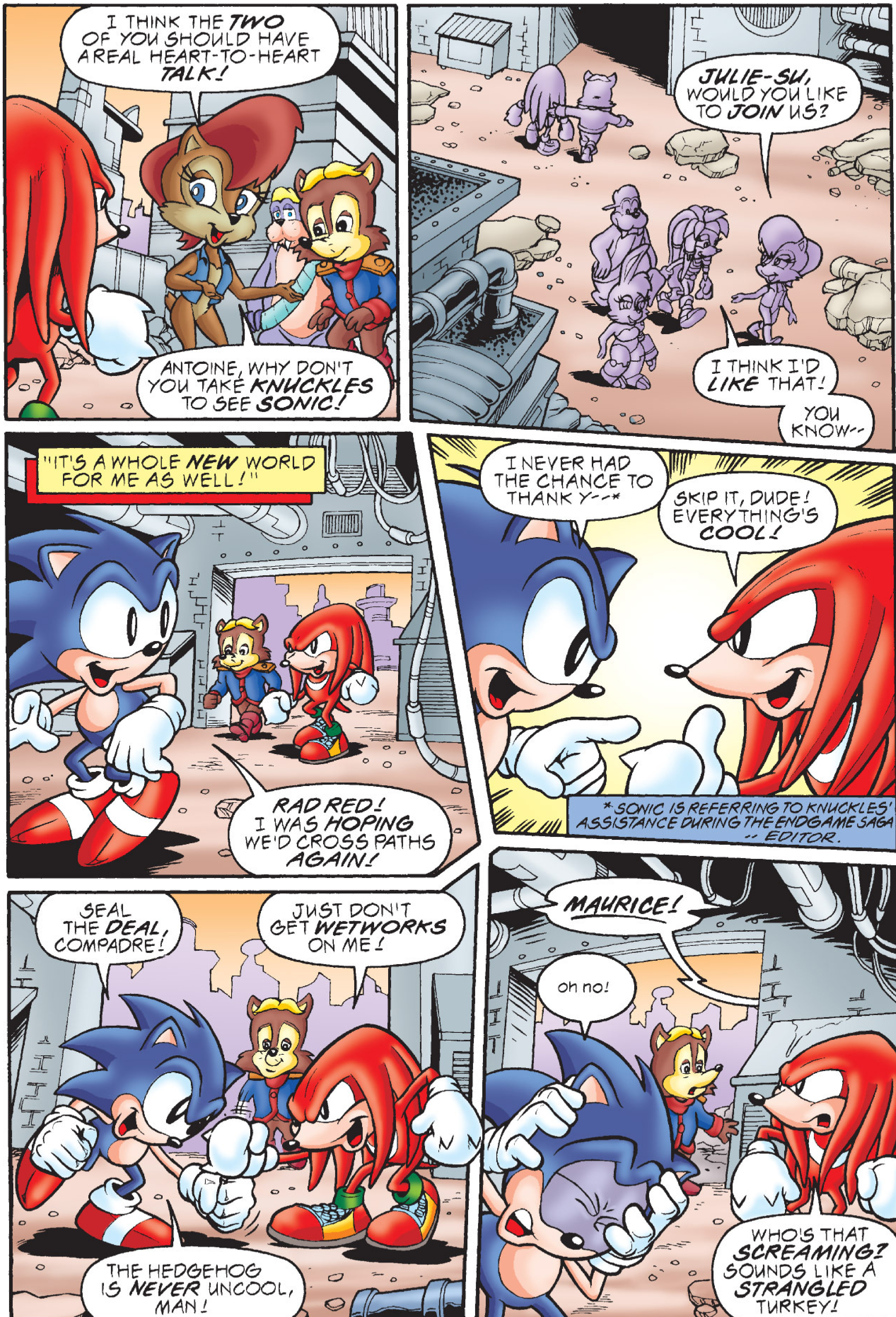

Once a virtual paradise, the planet
Mobius was enslaved when conquered by
the techno-evil of Doctor Robotnik.
In the aftermath, a
courageous group of "Freedom Fighters"
has risen to restore the order and
beauty that was once theirs.
The greatest among them is the
fastest and way-coolest
dude on two feet...
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
Now war-time has at long last ended
and a brave new world has started to emerge.
Its emergence, however, isn't easy.
Especially in the city of Mobotropolis.
Before the Knothole Villagers can transport
themselves here, The Freedom Fighters begin their
awesome task of dismantling the fiendish
devices left by Robotnik as a safety precaution.
Little do they know of the
secrets they will unleash.
Secrets of a past best left forgotten!
Especially for one King Acorn...


SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
PRINCESS SALLY!
INCOMING AT TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH!
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
KEN PENDERS Writer/Inker ART MAWHINNEY Penciler
JEFF POWELL Letterer KARL BOLLERS Colorist
J. FREDDY GABRIE Editor
Hmm! THAT'S QUITE AN UNUSUAL LOOKING CRAFT!
I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE!
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER
YOU SHOULD STAND BEHIND US PRINCESS--
--AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW ZEY ARE FRIENDLY!
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, ANTOINE!
BESIDES--
IT'S ONLY SIR KNUCKLES!*
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE BROUGHT A FRIEND!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO GREET A GUEST OF THE REALM?
*SALLY KNIGHTED KNUCKLES IN BATTLE ROYAL #1 -- EDITOR.

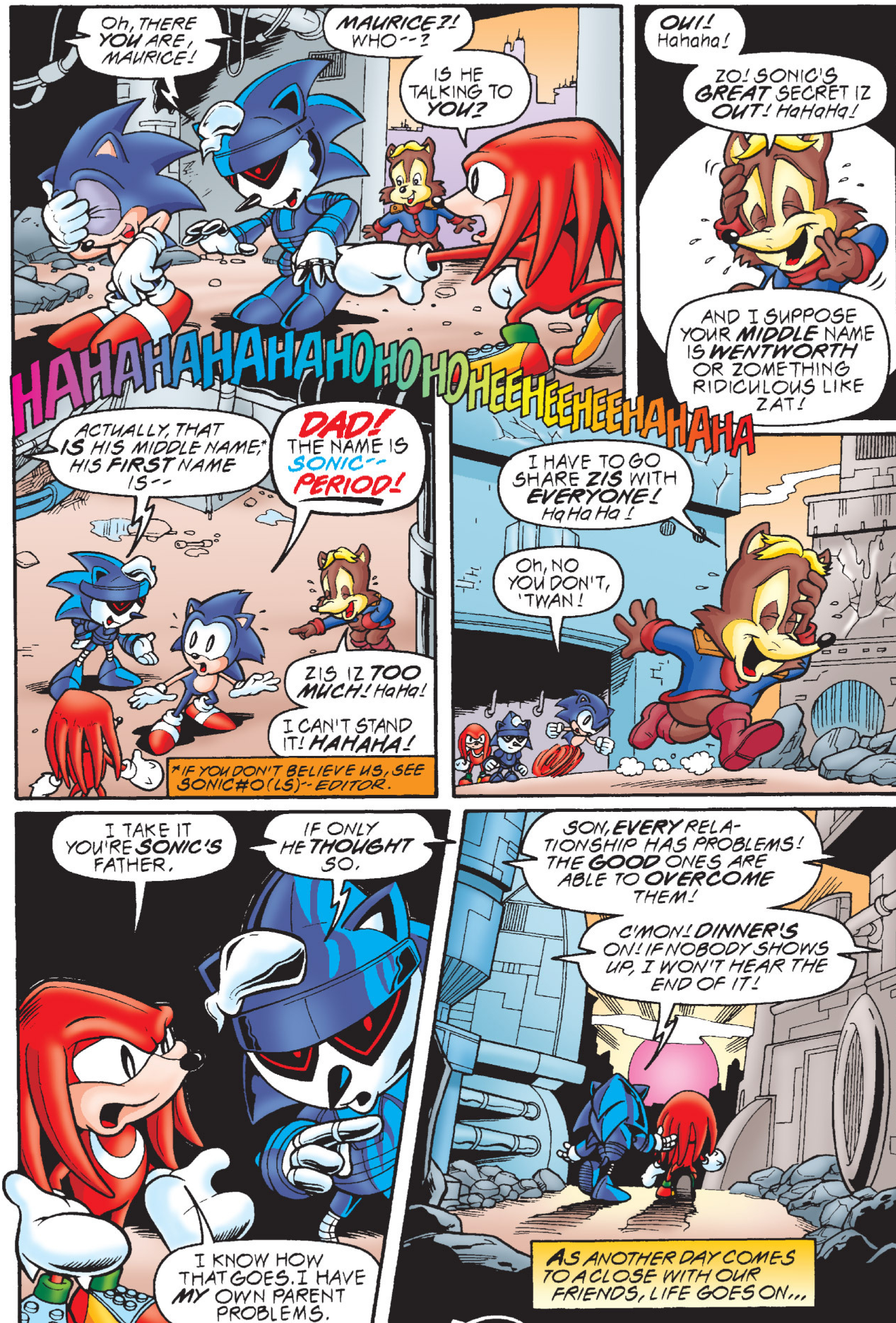

AFTER ALL, YOU GUYS AREN'T EXACTLY A HOP SKIP AND A JUMP AWAY FROM THE FLOATING ISLAND!
THE TRIP WASN'T THAT BAD, KNUCKLES!
JUST THE SAME, I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!
AND YOU ARE--?
SALLY, THIS IS JULIE-SU.
WE JUST RECENTLY MET.
"I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE DIDN'T START OUT AS FRIENDS--*
YOU'RE GOING DOWN, PUNK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE ECHIDNA ENOUGH TO DO IT?
* CHECK OUT KNUCKLES #4 FOR THE FULL STORY.--EDITOR.
--BOY?
GUESS AGAIN!
--BUT WE FOUND WE SHARED SOME THINGS IN COMMON!
Aha! SO YOU TWO ARE--
--JUST BUDDIES!
WE HAVE OUR DISAGREEMENTS AS WELL!
I'M SURE!
HOWEVER, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER! FOR NOW--

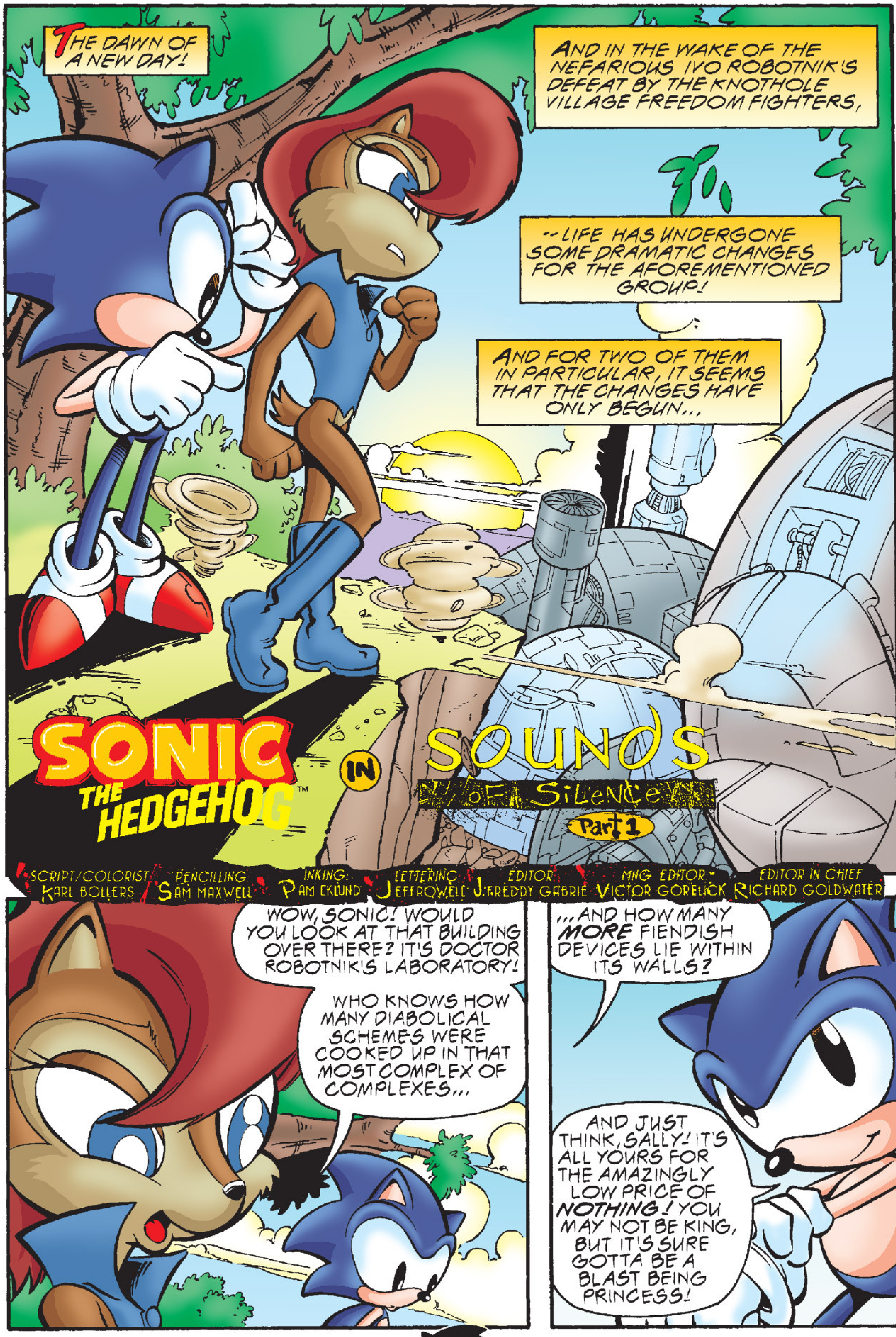

THERE ARE MORE URGENT MATTERS TO DISCUSS, DEAR SIR!
SUCH AS?
REMEMBER YOUR QUEST FOR AND SUB-SEQUENT RECOVERY OF THE SWORD OF ACORN?*
HOW COULD I FORGET?
*KNUCKLES' QUEST BEGAN IN SONIC #42 -- EDITOR.
"ONCE THE SWORD WAS IN OUR POSSESSION, WE THOUGHT THE WHOLE EFFORT WASTED UPON SEEING MY FATHER HEALTHY AND VIBRANT!*
NOBODY HAD INFORMED ME OF YOUR RECOVERY FATHER!
EVERYTHING IS ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS, DAUGHTER!
*IN THE NOW CLASSIC SONIC #47.--ED.
"SINCE THAT KING ACORN SOON PROVED TO BE A ROBOT DUPLICATE UPON RESCUING THE REAL KING ACORN, I DECIDED TO ATTEMPT UTILIZING THE POWER OF THE SWORD TO CURE HIS ILLNESS...
"I RAISED THE SWORD UTTERING THE MYSTICAL INCANTATION HANDED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS...
I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT--
--FIND THE CURE FOR KING ACORN'S PLIGHT!
STUPID SWORD!
--BUT IT WAS HOPELESS!
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?


"I HAD ROTOR EXAMINE THE SWORD, AND HE FOUND--
IT'S A FAKE!
WHAT'S FAKE?
THAT HUNKA METAL OR THE STORY BEHIND IT?
I WAS PLANNING TO GO OFF ON MY OWN QUEST--
--BUT MY DUTIES SUPERVISING THE RECON-STRUCTION OF MOBOTROPOLIS REQUIRED I STAY HERE!
NOW I'M HOPING YOU'RE UP FOR TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO FIND THE TRUE SWORD OF ACORN!
I'M SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT I'VE BEEN BUSY MYSELF SINCE I RECENTLY DISCOVERED MY BIRTH-PLACE STILL EXISTED, BUT IN ANOTHER ZONE--*
WILD!
IT CAN ONLY BE--
--ECHIDNAOPOLIS!
*CHECK OUT KNUCKLES: LOST PARADISE #4 FOR THE DETAILS--ED.
"WHEN ROBOTNIK'S ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR WENT OFF, IT MUST HAVE AFFECTED THE BARRIERS BETWEEN ZONES ENABLING GRANDFATHER HAWKINS TO RE-STORE THE CITY TO ITS ORIGINAL SITE!"*
*RUN, DO NOT WALK, TO CHECK OUT KNUCKLES #6, WHILE YOU STILL CAN!--ED.
WHEN YOU CALLED, IT GAVE ME THE EXCUSE I NEEDED TO GET AWAY AND THINK, ESPECIALLY AFTER DIS-COVERING A MOTHER I NEVER KNEW I HAD!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU AND SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN EITHER OF YOU REALIZE.
IN FACT--

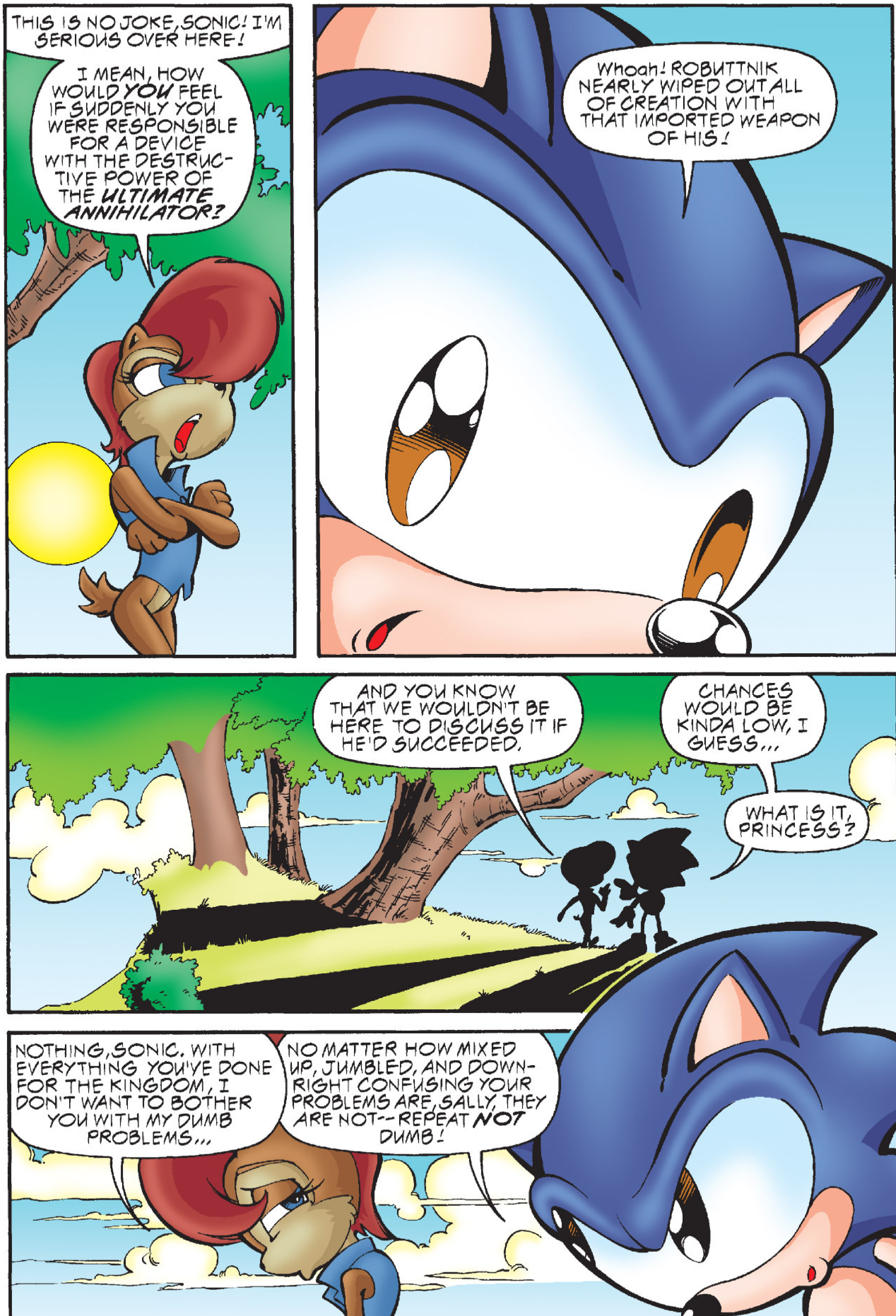


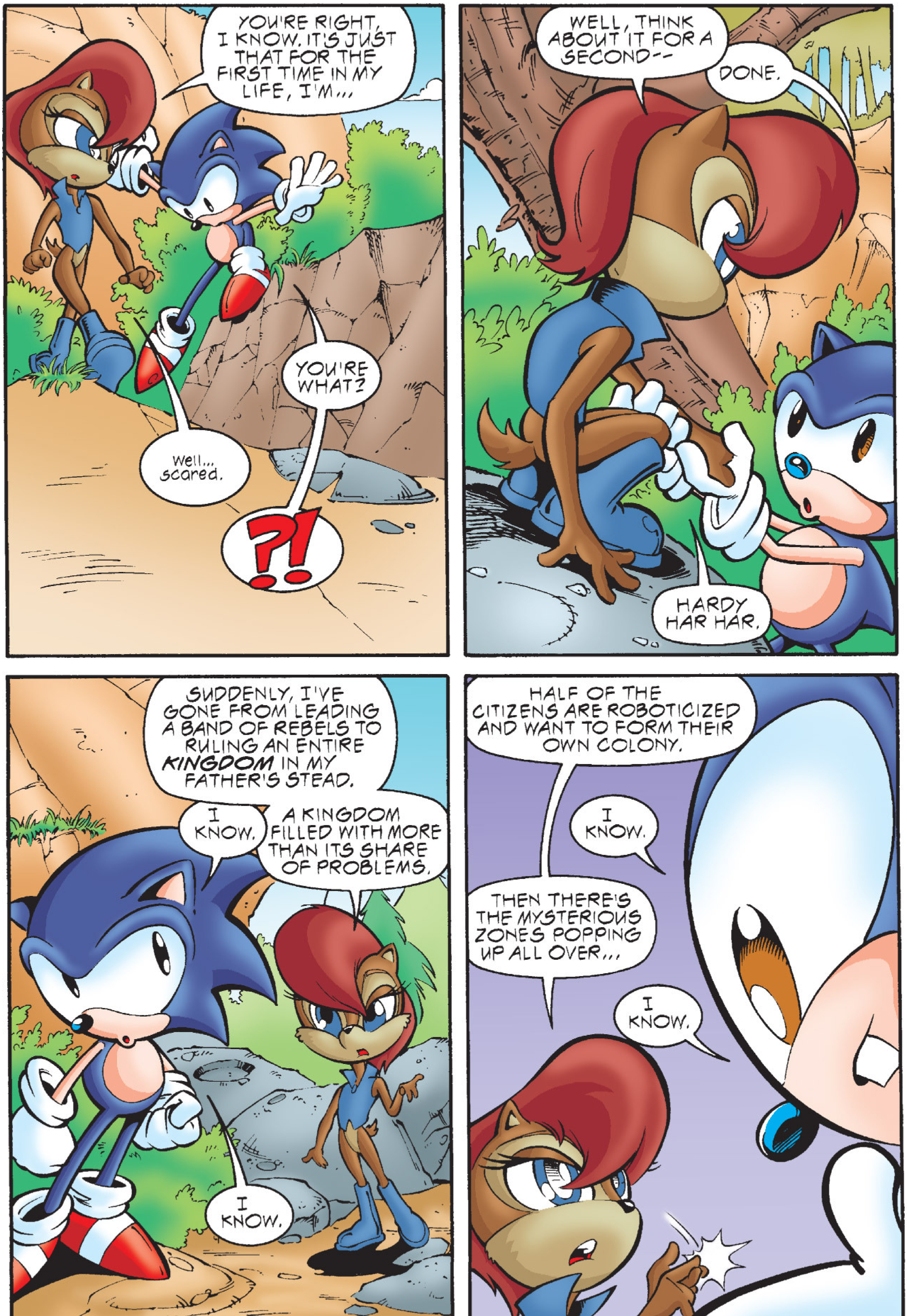
I THINK THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD HAVE A REAL HEART-TO-HEART TALK!
ANTOINE, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE KNUCKLES TO SEE SONIC!
JULIE-SU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
I THINK I'D LIKE THAT!
YOU KNOW--
"IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR ME AS WELL!"
RAD RED! I WAS HOPING WE'D CROSS PATHS AGAIN!
I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO THANK Y--*
SKIP IT, DUDE! EVERYTHING'S COOL!
* SONIC IS REFERRING TO KNUCKLES' ASSISTANCE DURING THE ENDGAME SAGA -- EDITOR.
SEAL THE DEAL, COMPADRE!
JUST DON'T GET WETWORKS ON ME!
THE HEDGEHOG IS NEVER UNCOOL, MAN!
MAURICE!
oh no!
WHO'S THAT SCREAMING? SOUNDS LIKE A STRANGLED TURKEY!


Oh, THERE YOU ARE, MAURICE!
MAURICE?! WHO--?
IS HE TALKING TO YOU?
OUI! Hahaha!
ZO! SONIC'S GREAT SECRET IZ OUT! HaHaHa!
AND I SUPPOSE YOUR MIDDLE NAME IS WENTWORTH OR ZOMETHING RIDICULOUS LIKE ZAT!
HAHAHAHAHAHOHOHOHEEHEEHEEHAHAHA
ACTUALLY, THAT IS HIS MIDDLE NAME;* HIS FIRST NAME IS--
DAD! THE NAME IS SONIC-- PERIOD!
ZIS IZ TOO MUCH! HaHa!
I CAN'T STAND IT! HAHAHA!
*IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, SEE SONIC #0 (LS) -- EDITOR.
I HAVE TO GO SHARE ZIS WITH EVERYONE! HaHaHa!
Oh, NO YOU DON'T, 'TWAN!
I TAKE IT YOU'RE SONIC'S FATHER.
IF ONLY HE THOUGHT SO.
I KNOW HOW THAT GOES. I HAVE MY OWN PARENT PROBLEMS.
SON, EVERY RELATIONSHIP HAS PROBLEMS! THE GOOD ONES ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME THEM!
C'MON! DINNER'S ON! IF NOBODY SHOWS UP, I WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT!
AS ANOTHER DAY COMES TO A CLOSE WITH OUR FRIENDS, LIFE GOES ON...



THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY!
AND IN THE WAKE OF THE NEFARIOUS IVO ROBOTNIK'S DEFEAT BY THE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE FREEDOM FIGHTERS,
--LIFE HAS UNDERGONE SOME DRAMATIC CHANGES FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED GROUP!
AND FOR TWO OF THEM IN PARTICULAR, IT SEEMS THAT THE CHANGES HAVE ONLY BEGUN...
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ IN SOUNDS OF SILENCE Part 1
SCRIPT/COLORIST KARL BOLLERS
PENCILLING SAM MAXWELL
INKING PAM EKLUND
LETTERING JEFF POWELL
EDITOR J. FREDDY GABRIE
MNG EDITOR VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR IN CHIEF RICHARD GOLDWATER
WOW, SONIC! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT BUILDING OVER THERE? IT'S DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S LABORATORY!
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY DIABOLICAL SCHEMES WERE COOKED UP IN THAT MOST COMPLEX OF COMPLEXES...
...AND HOW MANY **MORE** FIENDISH DEVICES LIE WITHIN ITS WALLS?
AND JUST THINK, SALLY! IT'S ALL YOURS FOR THE AMAZINGLY LOW PRICE OF **NOTHING!** YOU MAY NOT BE KING, BUT IT'S SURE GOTTA BE A BLAST BEING PRINCESS!

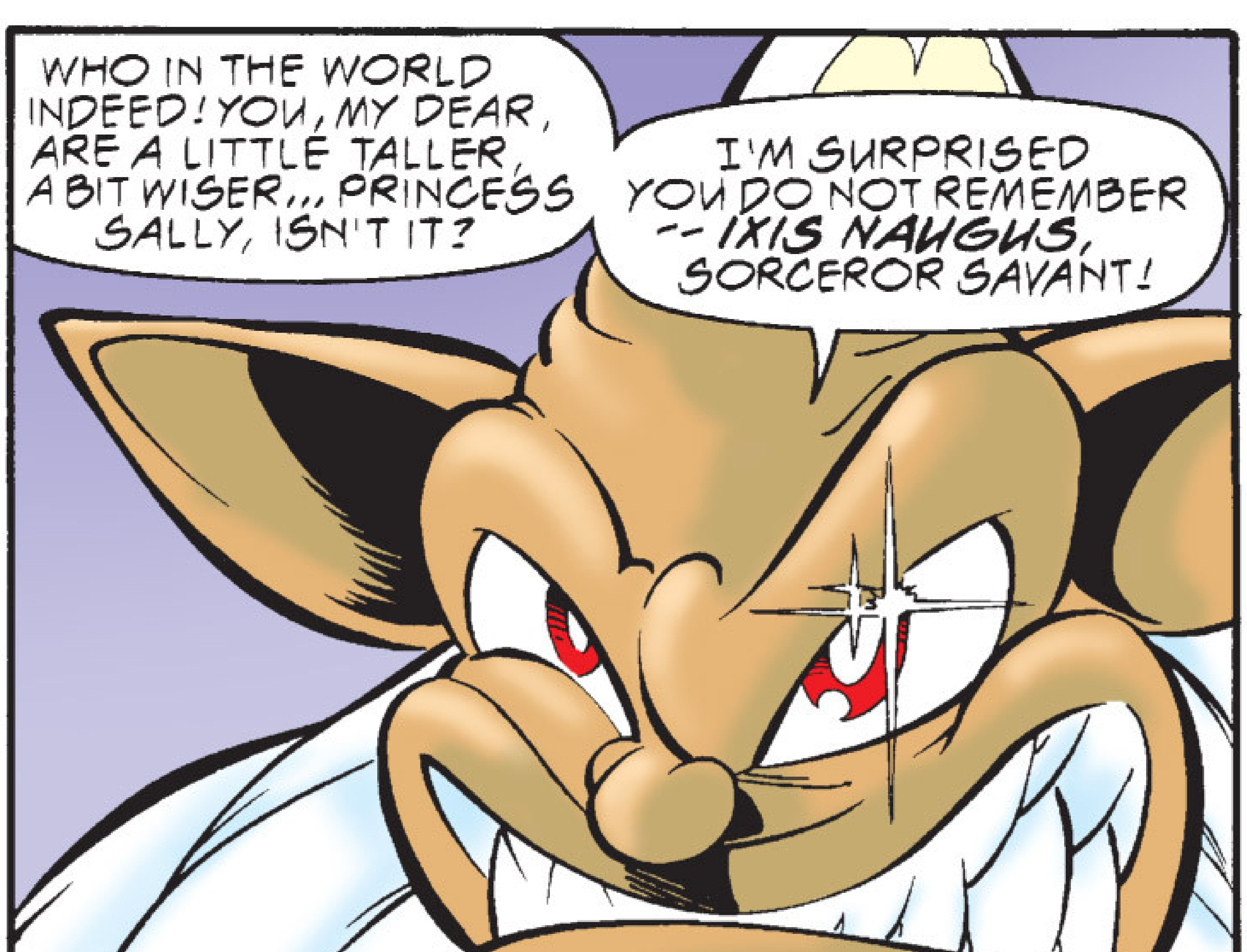

THIS IS NO JOKE, SONIC! I'M SERIOUS OVER HERE!
I MEAN, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SUDDENLY YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DEVICE WITH THE DESTRUC-TIVE POWER OF THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR?
Whoah! ROBUTTNIK NEARLY WIPED OUT ALL OF CREATION WITH THAT IMPORTED WEAPON OF HIS!
AND YOU KNOW THAT WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TO DISCUSS IT IF HE'D SUCCEEDED.
CHANCES WOULD BE KINDA LOW, I GUESS...
WHAT IS IT, PRINCESS?
NOTHING, SONIC. WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR THE KINGDOM, I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH MY DUMB PROBLEMS...
NO MATTER HOW MIXED UP, JUMBLED, AND DOWN-RIGHT CONFUSING YOUR PROBLEMS ARE, SALLY, THEY ARE NOT-- REPEAT NOT DUMB!


YOU'RE RIGHT, I KNOW. IT'S JUST THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'M...
well... scared.
YOU'RE WHAT?
?!
WELL, THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND--
DONE.
HARDY HAR HAR.
SUDDENLY, I'VE GONE FROM LEADING A BAND OF REBELS TO RULING AN ENTIRE KINGDOM IN MY FATHER'S STEAD.
I KNOW.
A KINGDOM FILLED WITH MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS.
I KNOW.
HALF OF THE CITIZENS ARE ROBOTICIZED AND WANT TO FORM THEIR OWN COLONY.
I KNOW.
THEN THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS ZONES POPPING UP ALL OVER...
I KNOW.


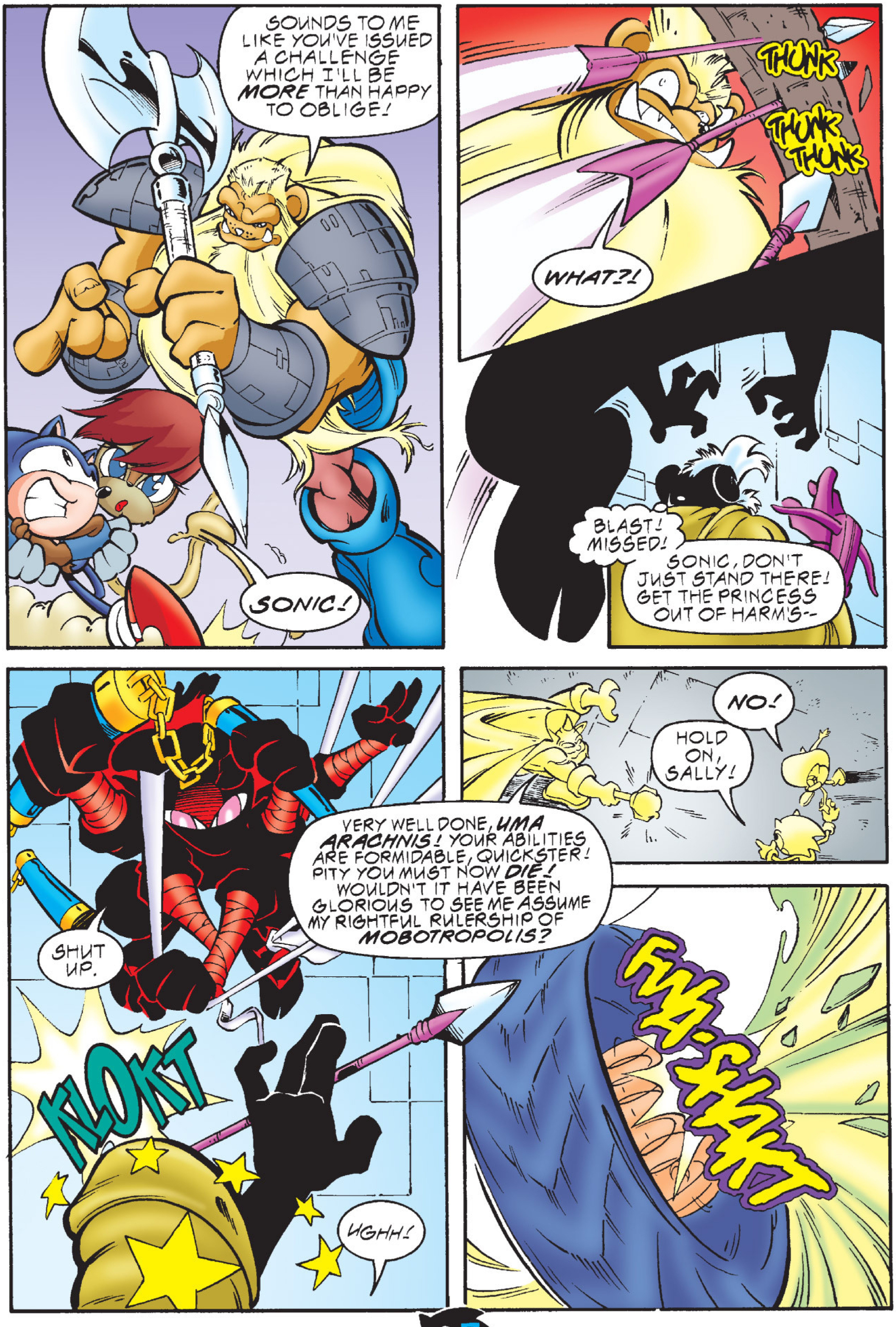
AND MY FATHER! THE KING! WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO REVERSE THE PROCESS THAT HAS TURNED HIM INTO CRYSTAL?
WE MAY BE CLOSER THAN WE WERE A FEW DAYS AGO.
GEOFFREY!
PRINCESS... SONIC...
St. JOHN.
EVEN NOW, ROTOR, SIR CHARLES, AND DOCTOR QUACK ARE INVESTIGATING THE PORTAL TO THE SO-CALLED ZONE OF SILENCE WITHIN JULIAN'S LAB.
THE DREAD ZONE OF SILENCE... WHERE ROBOTNIK BANISHED MY FATHER YEARS AGO.
ONCE THEY HAVE LAUNCHED A PROBE INTO IT--
WAITAMINNIT! PROBE? IS THAT SUCH A SAFE IDEA? I MEAN--
KUH-BOOM
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH IT--?

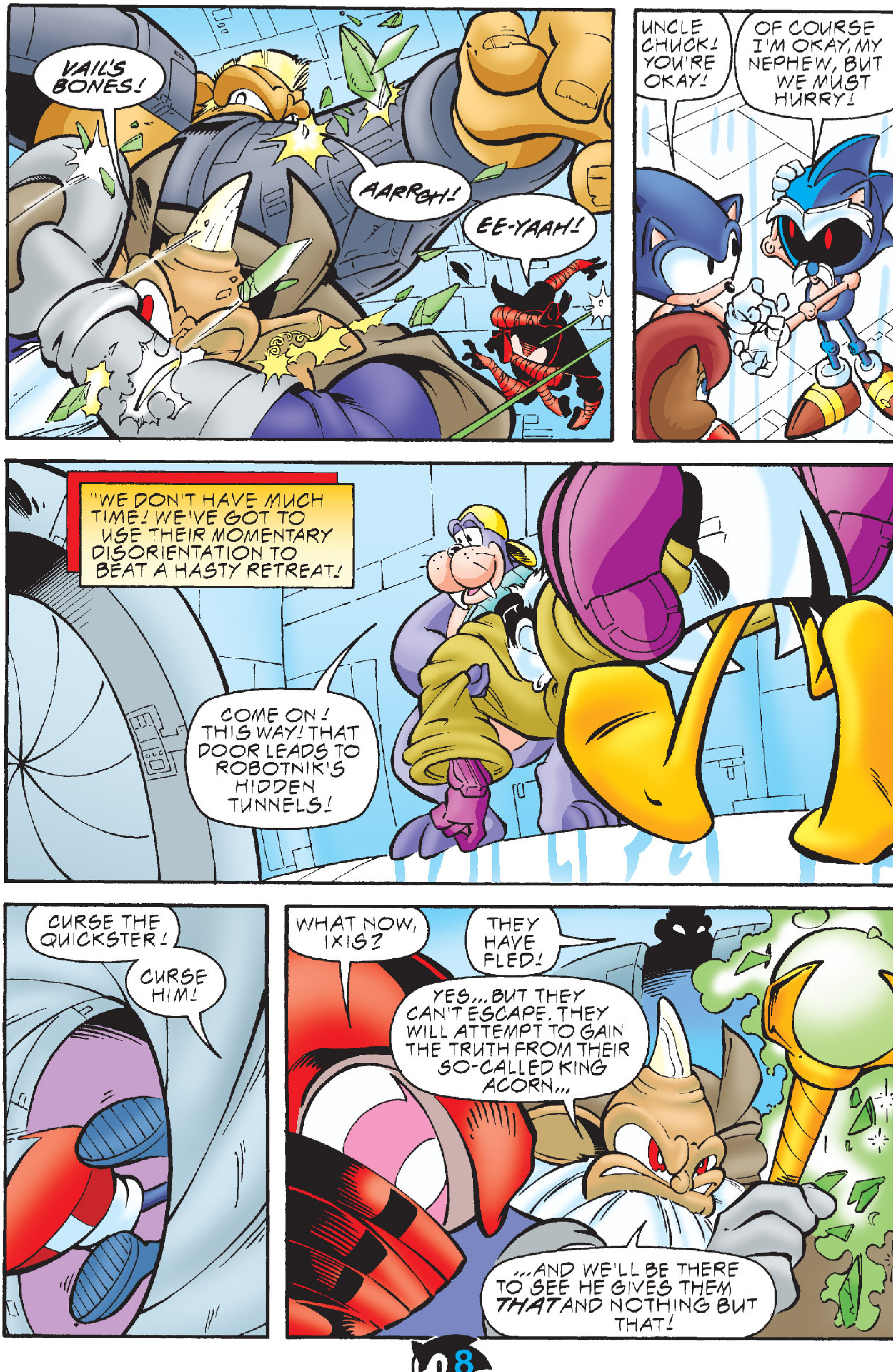

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ IN
SOUNDS OF SILENCE
Part 2
LIKE I WAS SAYING BEFORE I WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED, "PROBE? IS THAT SUCH A SAFE IDEA? I MEAN THE ZONE IS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF CREEPY VILLIANS AFTER ALL!"
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT, HEDGEHOG! NO REASON TO GET SNIPPY!
THEY'VE KNOCKED THE OTHERS UNCONSCIOUS --WHO IN THE WORLD ***ARE*** THEY?

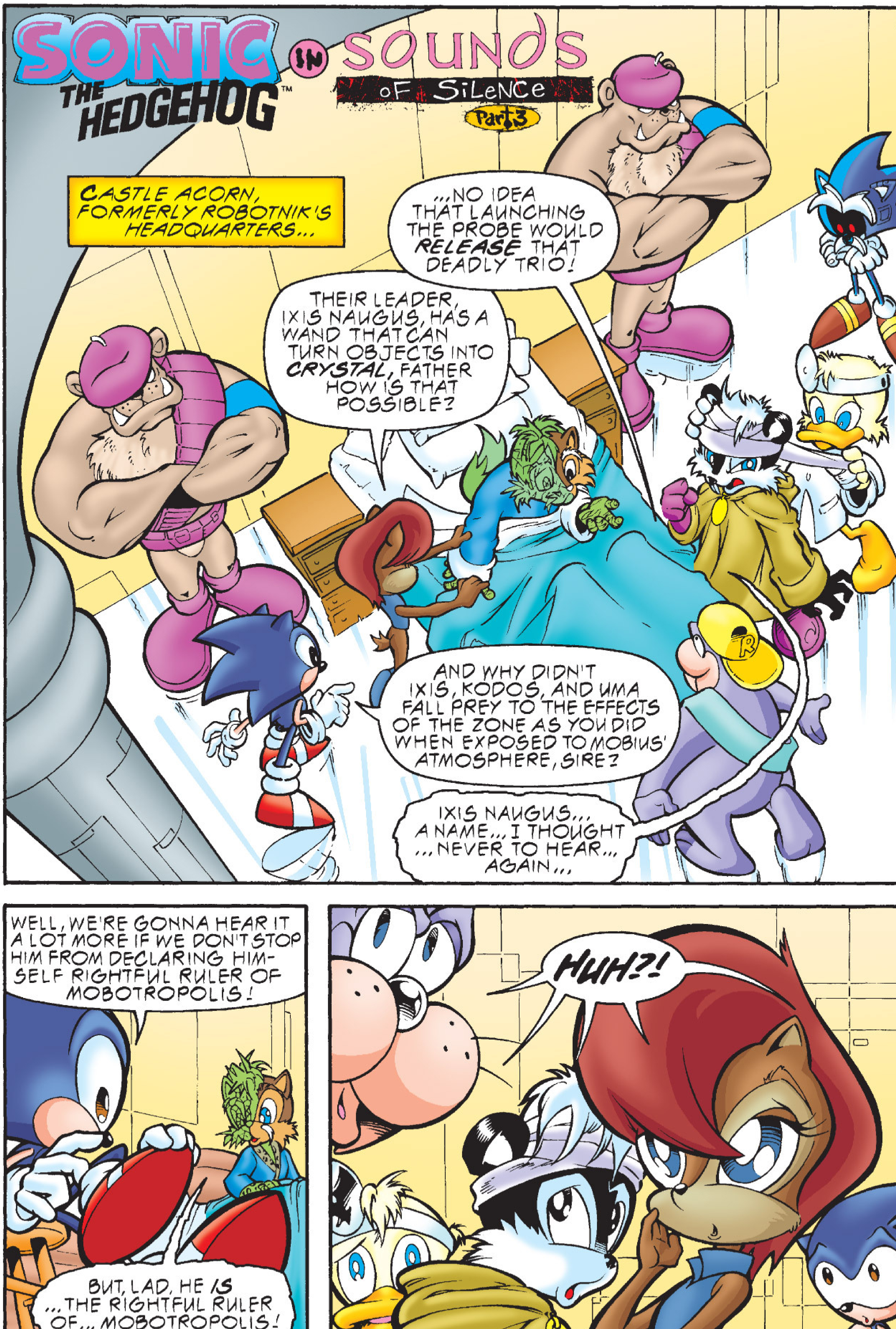

WHO IN THE WORLD INDEED! YOU, MY DEAR, ARE A LITTLE TALLER, A BIT WISER... PRINCESS SALLY, ISN'T IT?
I'M SURPRISED YOU DO NOT REMEMBER --***IXIS NAUGUS***, SORCEROR SAVANT!


I DON'T KNOW ***WHO*** YOU ARE, Mr. IXIS WHOGUS SORCEROUS WHATGUS OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, BUT--

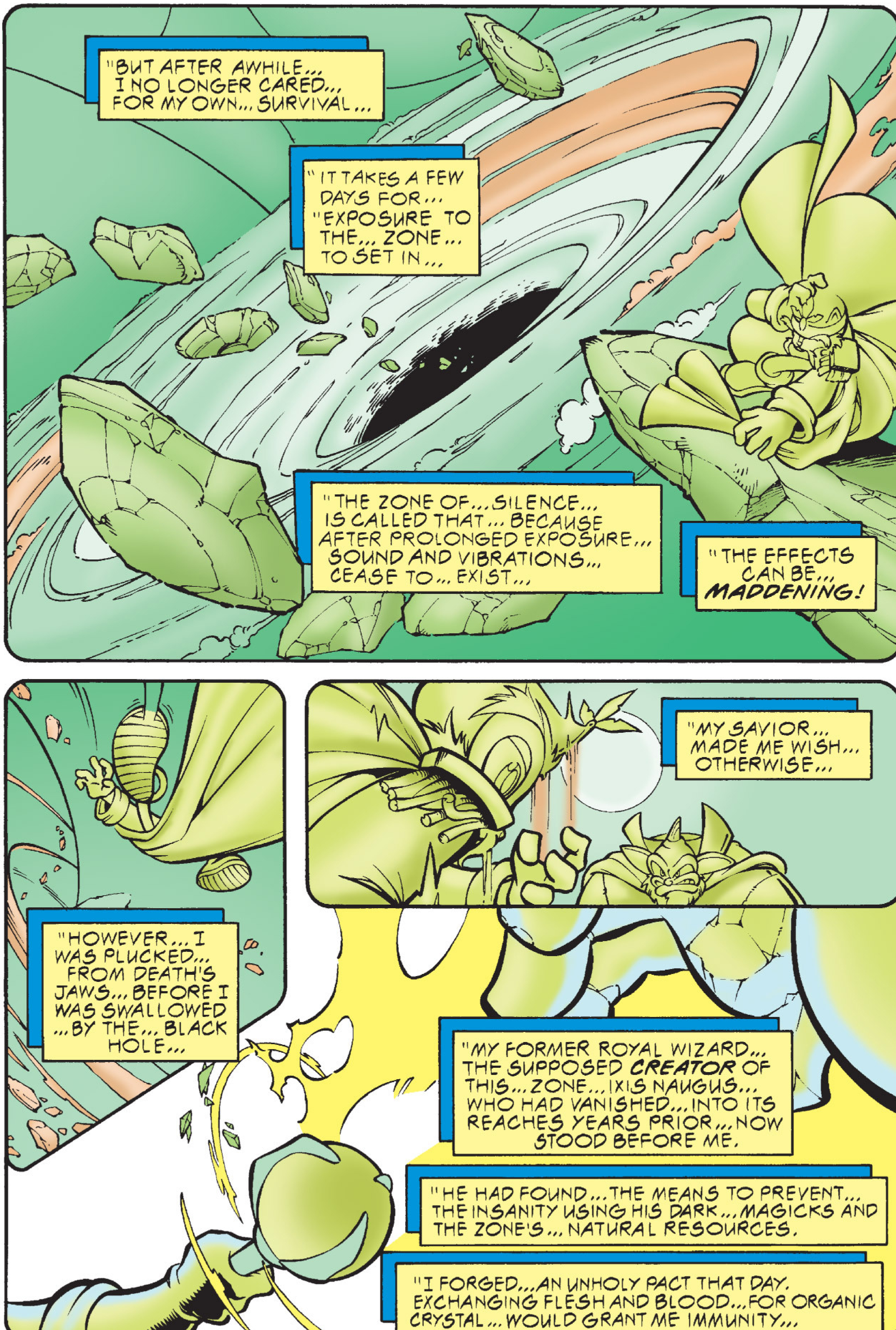

SILENCE! YOU WILL SPEAK WHEN COMMANDED!
FWA-SHAKT
HOLEEEE!
LIKE I WAS SAYING BEFORE I WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED, "I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE,..
"...BUT ANYONE'S WHO'S ALL BUDDY BUDDY WITH WARLORD KODOS IS NO FRIEND OF MINE (AND THAT BLAST WASN'T TOO ENDEARING EITHER)!"
WELL, PERHAPS ANOTHER WILL STIFLE YOU FOREVER!
FWA-SHAKT
YOU'LL HAVE TO HIT ME FIRST, IXE!
Fantastic.

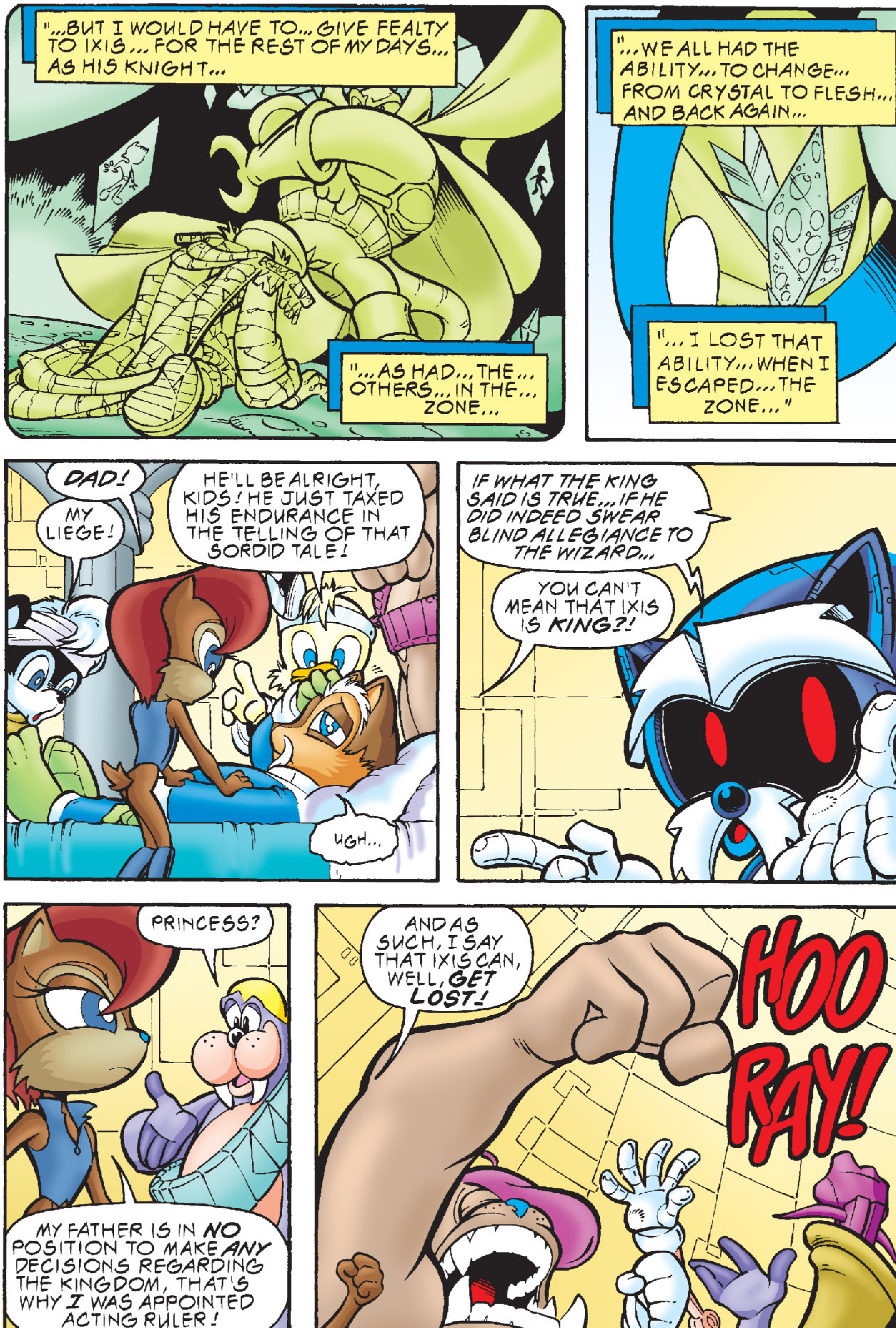

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE ISSUED A CHALLENGE WHICH I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO OBLIGE!
SONIC!
THUNK
THUNK THUNK
WHAT?!
BLAST! MISSED!
SONIC, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GET THE PRINCESS OUT OF HARM'S--
VERY WELL DONE, UMA ARACHNIS! YOUR ABILITIES ARE FORMIDABLE, QUICKSTER! PITY YOU MUST NOW DIE! WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN GLORIOUS TO SEE ME ASSUME MY RIGHTFUL RULERSHIP OF MOBOTROPOLIS?
SHUT UP.
KLOKT
UGHH!
NO!
HOLD ON, SALLY!


VAIL'S BONES!
AARRGH!
EE-YAAH!
UNCLE CHUCK! YOU'RE OKAY!
OF COURSE I'M OKAY, MY NEPHEW, BUT WE MUST HURRY!
"WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME! WE'VE GOT TO USE THEIR MOMENTARY DISORIENTATION TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT!
COME ON! THIS WAY! THAT DOOR LEADS TO ROBOTNIK'S HIDDEN TUNNELS!
CURSE THE QUICKSTER!
CURSE HIM!
WHAT NOW, IXIS?
THEY HAVE FLED!
YES... BUT THEY CAN'T ESCAPE. THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO GAIN THE TRUTH FROM THEIR SO-CALLED KING ACORN...
...AND WE'LL BE THERE TO SEE HE GIVES THEM *THAT* AND NOTHING BUT THAT!

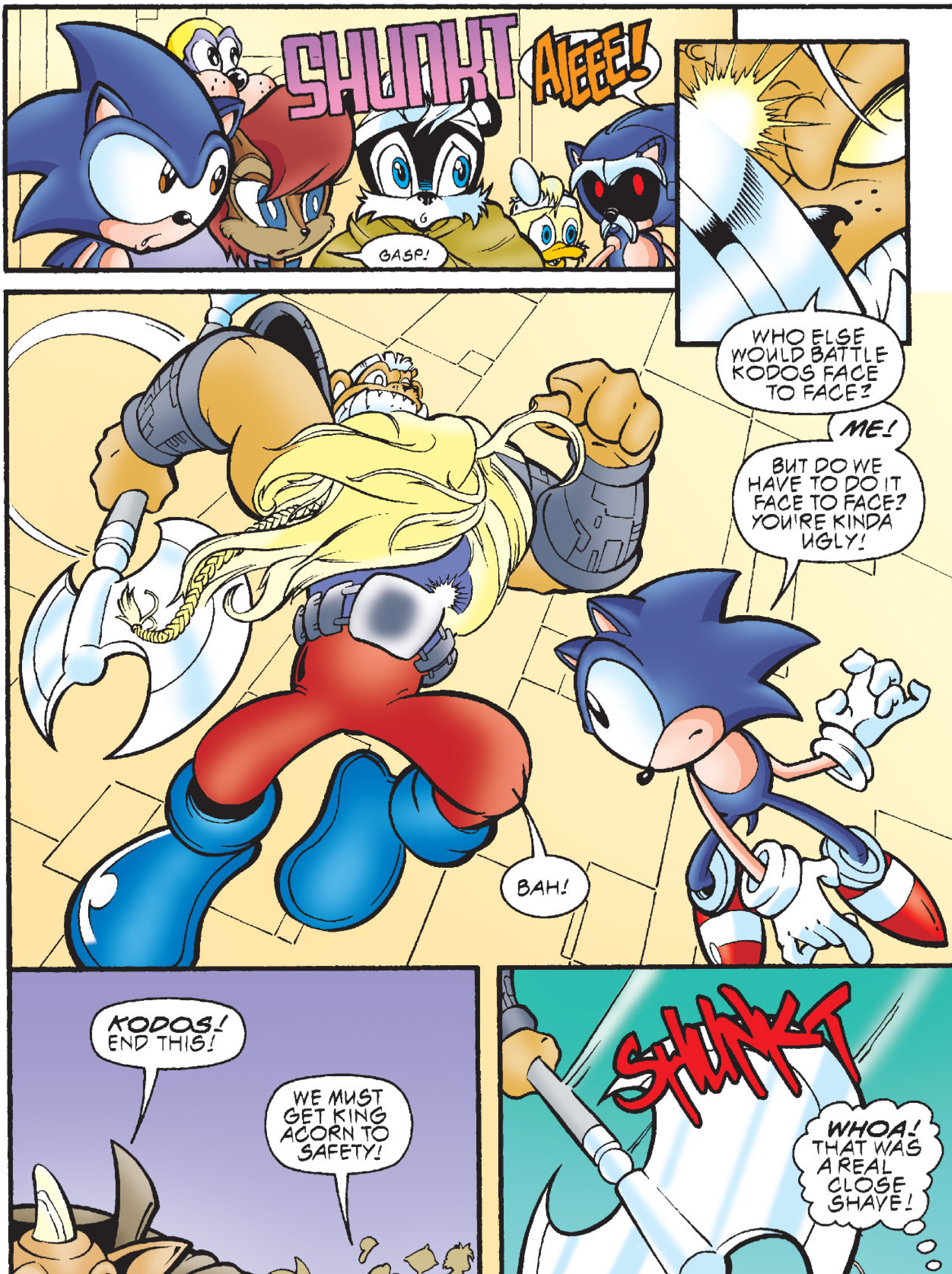

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ IN SOUNDS OF SILENCE Part 3
CASTLE ACORN, FORMERLY ROBOTNIK'S HEADQUARTERS...
...NO IDEA THAT LAUNCHING THE PROBE WOULD RELEASE THAT DEADLY TRIO!
THEIR LEADER, IXIS NAUGUS, HAS A WAND THAT CAN TURN OBJECTS INTO CRYSTAL, FATHER. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
AND WHY DIDN'T IXIS, KODOS, AND UMA FALL PREY TO THE EFFECTS OF THE ZONE AS YOU DID WHEN EXPOSED TO MOBIUS' ATMOSPHERE, SIRE?
IXIS NAUGUS... A NAME... I THOUGHT ...NEVER TO HEAR... AGAIN...
WELL, WE'RE GONNA HEAR IT A LOT MORE IF WE DON'T STOP HIM FROM DECLARING HIM-SELF RIGHTFUL RULER OF MOBOTROPOLIS!
BUT, LAD, HE IS ...THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF... MOBOTROPOLIS!
HUH?!

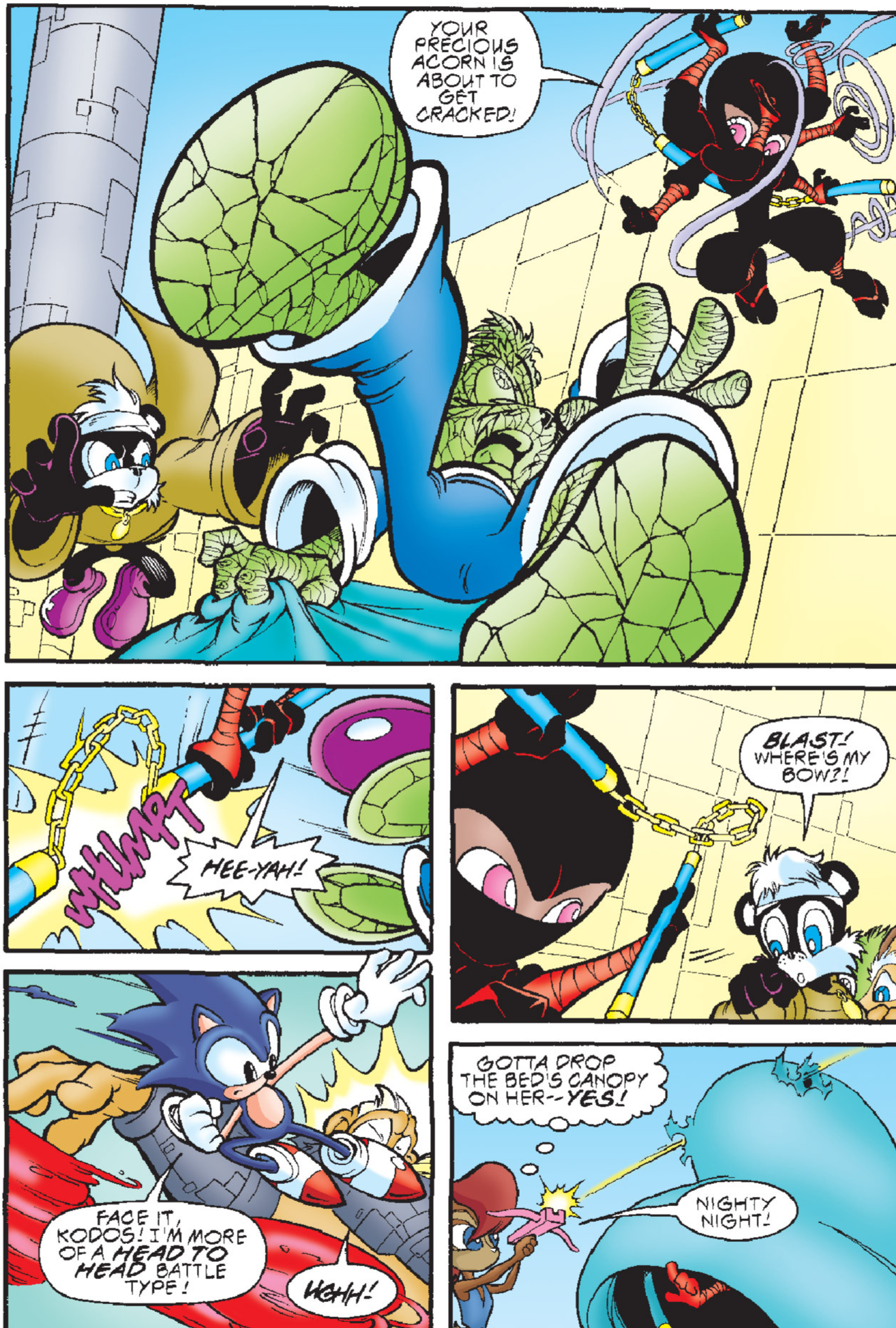

I THINK OUR LIEGE IS SUFFERING FROM A MOMENTARY LAPSE OF REASON!
NO, DOCTOR... I ASSURE YOU... MY REASONING IS FAR SOUNDER... THAN IT HAS BEEN... FOR SOME TIME...
DAD?
I'M FINE, PRINCESS. NEVER THOUGHT THAT... IXIS WOULD ESCAPE ... ZONE OF SILENCE.
NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EITHER ...FOR THAT MATTER.
YOU ALL BELIEVED... MY CRYSTALIZATION... TO BE A BY-PRODUCT OF... PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO ITS... HARSH ENVIRONMENT.
"BUT THAT... IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...
"AFTER JULIAN... BETRAYED MY TRUST ... THE KINGDOM'S TRUST...
"I HAD... TO USE ALL OF MY SKILLS TO... SURVIVE IN WHAT WAS... MY NEW... HOME...

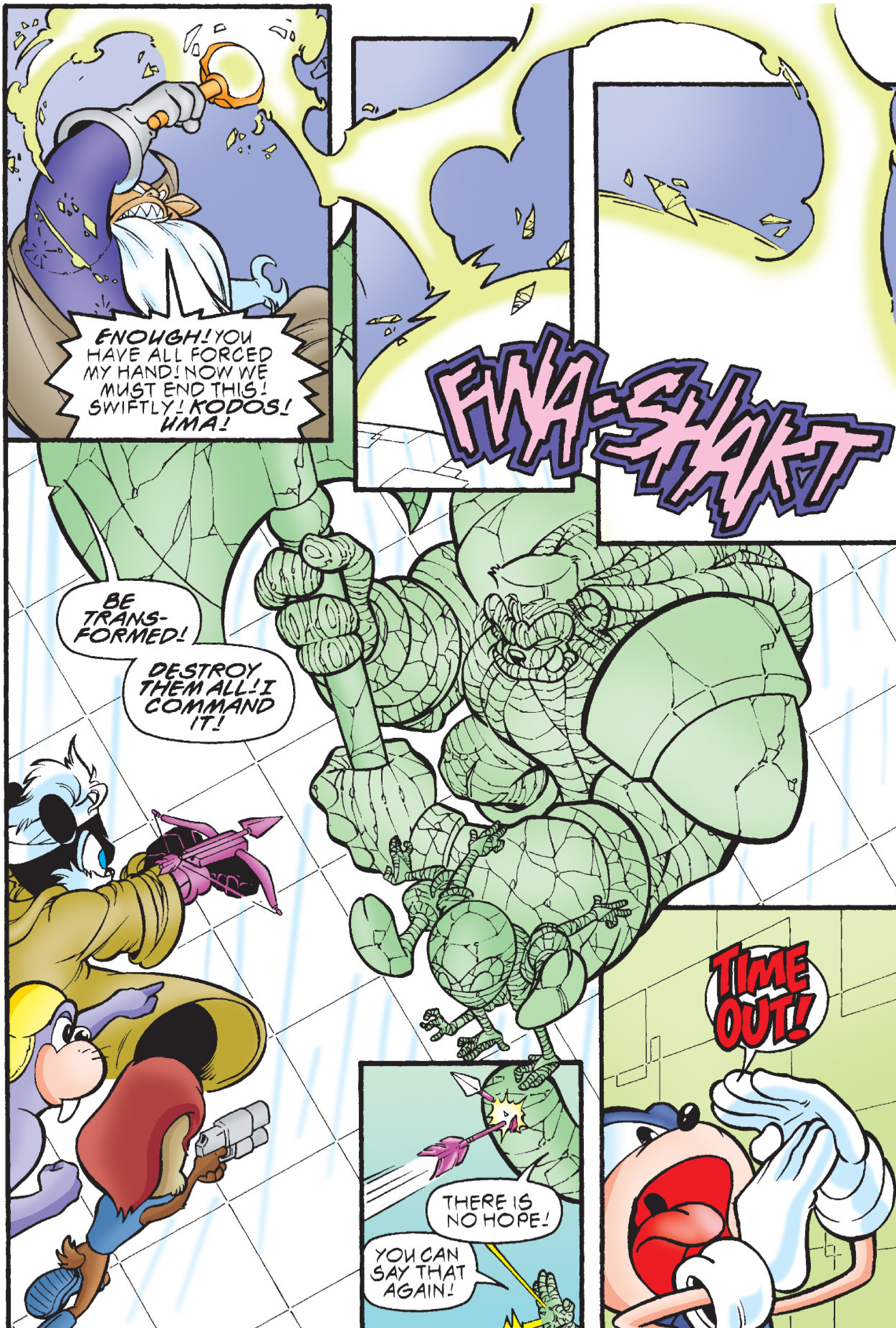

"BUT AFTER AWHILE... I NO LONGER CARED... FOR MY OWN... SURVIVAL...
"IT TAKES A FEW DAYS FOR... "EXPOSURE TO THE... ZONE... TO SET IN...
"THE ZONE OF... SILENCE... IS CALLED THAT... BECAUSE AFTER PROLONGED EXPOSURE... SOUND AND VIBRATIONS... CEASE TO... EXIST...
"THE EFFECTS CAN BE... **MADDENING!**
"HOWEVER... I WAS PLUCKED... FROM DEATH'S JAWS... BEFORE I WAS SWALLOWED ...BY THE... BLACK HOLE...
"MY SAVIOR... MADE ME WISH... OTHERWISE...
"MY FORMER ROYAL WIZARD... THE SUPPOSED ***CREATOR*** OF THIS... ZONE... IXIS NAUGUS... WHO HAD VANISHED... INTO ITS REACHES YEARS PRIOR... NOW STOOD BEFORE ME.
"HE HAD FOUND... THE MEANS TO PREVENT... THE INSANITY USING HIS DARK... MAGICKS AND THE ZONE'S... NATURAL RESOURCES.
"I FORGED... AN UNHOLY PACT THAT DAY. EXCHANGING FLESH AND BLOOD... FOR ORGANIC CRYSTAL... WOULD GRANT ME IMMUNITY...

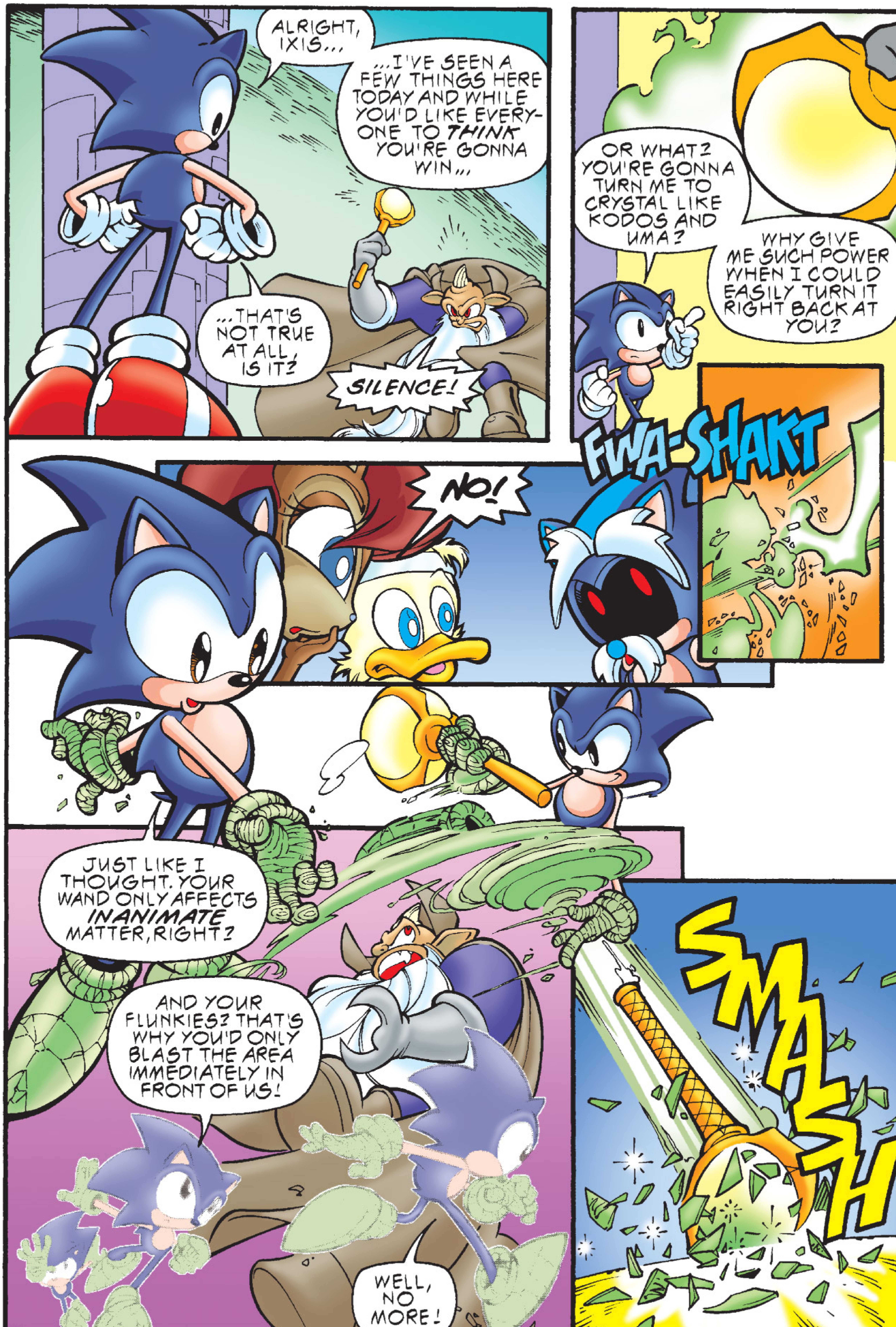

"...BUT I WOULD HAVE TO... GIVE FEALTY TO IXIS... FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS... AS HIS KNIGHT...
"...AS HAD... THE... OTHERS... IN THE... ZONE...
"...WE ALL HAD THE ABILITY... TO CHANGE... FROM CRYSTAL TO FLESH... AND BACK AGAIN...
"... I LOST THAT ABILITY... WHEN I ESCAPED... THE ZONE..."
DAD!
MY LIEGE!
HE'LL BE ALRIGHT, KIDS! HE JUST TAXED HIS ENDURANCE IN THE TELLING OF THAT SORDID TALE!
UGH...
IF WHAT THE KING SAID IS TRUE... IF HE DID INDEED SWEAR BLIND ALLEGIANCE TO THE WIZARD...
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT IXIS IS KING?!
PRINCESS?
MY FATHER IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS REGARDING THE KINGDOM, THAT'S WHY I WAS APPOINTED ACTING RULER!
AND AS SUCH, I SAY THAT IXIS CAN, WELL, GET LOST!
HOO RAY!

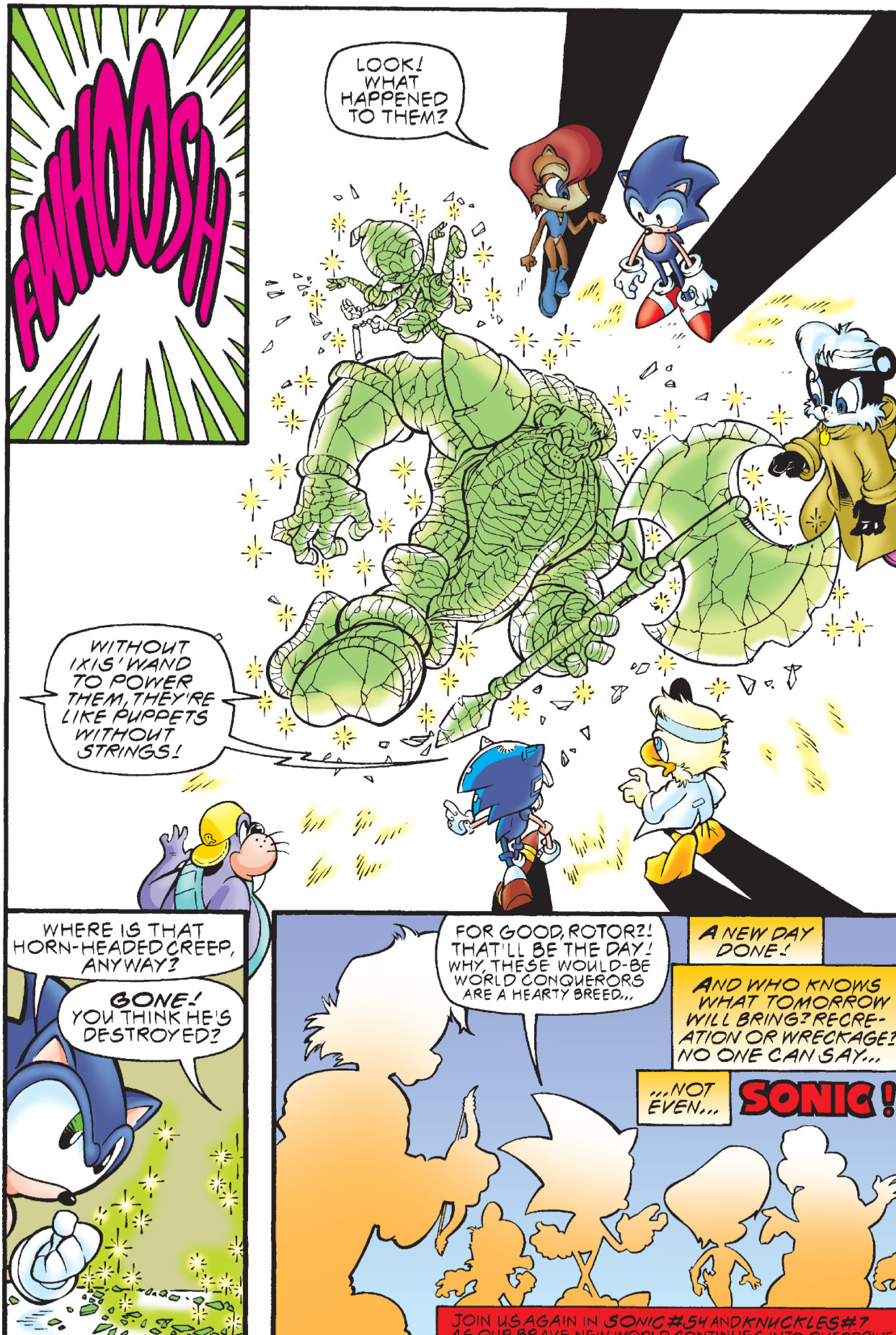

SOUNDS
OF SILENCE
Part 4
SHAKT
LET ME TAKE A WILD GUESS...
GUARDS! NO!
FOR KING!
AND COUNTRY!


SHUNKT
AIEEE!
GASP!
WHO ELSE WOULD BATTLE KODOS FACE TO FACE?
ME!
BUT DO WE HAVE TO DO IT FACE TO FACE? YOU'RE KINDA UGLY!
BAH!
KODOS! END THIS!
WE MUST GET KING ACORN TO SAFETY!
SHUNKT
WHOA! THAT WAS A REAL CLOSE SHAVE!


YOUR PRECIOUS ACORN IS ABOUT TO GET CRACKED!
WHUMP!
HEE-YAH!
BLAST! WHERE'S MY BOW?!
FACE IT, KODOS! I'M MORE OF A HEAD TO HEAD BATTLE TYPE!
UGHH!
GOTTA DROP THE BED'S CANOPY ON HER--YES!
NIGHTY NIGHT!


ENOUGH! YOU HAVE ALL FORCED MY HAND! NOW WE MUST END THIS! SWIFTLY! KODOS! UMA!
FWA-SHAKT
BE TRANS-FORMED!
DESTROY THEM ALL! I COMMAND IT!
TIME OUT!
THERE IS NO HOPE!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!


ALRIGHT, IXIS...
...I'VE SEEN A FEW THINGS HERE TODAY AND WHILE YOU'D LIKE EVERY-ONE TO *THINK* YOU'RE GONNA WIN...
...THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL, IS IT?
SILENCE!
OR WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA TURN ME TO CRYSTAL LIKE KODOS AND UMA?
WHY GIVE ME SUCH POWER WHEN I COULD EASILY TURN IT RIGHT BACK AT YOU?
FWA-SHAKT
NO!
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. YOUR WAND ONLY AFFECTS *INANIMATE* MATTER, RIGHT?
AND YOUR FLUNKIES? THAT'S WHY YOU'D ONLY BLAST THE AREA IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF US!
WELL, NO MORE!
SMASH



FWHOOSH
LOOK! WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
WITHOUT IXIS' WAND TO POWER THEM, THEY'RE LIKE PUPPETS WITHOUT STRINGS!
WHERE IS THAT HORN-HEADED CREEP, ANYWAY?
GONE! YOU THINK HE'S DESTROYED?
FOR GOOD, ROTOR?! THAT'LL BE THE DAY! WHY, THESE WOULD-BE WORLD CONQUERORS ARE A HEARTY BREED...
A NEW DAY DONE!
AND WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING? RECREATION OR WRECKAGE? NO ONE CAN SAY...
...NOT EVEN...
SONIC!
JOIN US AGAIN IN SONIC #54 AND KNUCKLES #7 AS OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD CONTINUES INTO OVERDRIVE!